

Hamstead *Hornet*

Hamstead Marshall's quarterly newspaper since 1996

March 2023

issue no 105

LOCAL LINKS

Parish council

St Mary's Church
[website](#); [FB](#)

Dogs Trust at
[Plumb's Farm](#)

Community
market [FB](#)

Hamstead
Marshall Wildlife
Group [FB](#)

WhatsApp groups

Community chit-
chat, news, tips,
advice, requests.
Contact [Sarah](#)
[Stevenson](#)

HM Growing Tips
local gardeners'
triumphs and
disasters. Contact
[Lanie Allen](#)

Holtwood Vineyard

looking forward to the first harvest this year

Bus shelter

more than just a place to wait?

Fly-tipping

keeping Streetcare busy

Good Hope Farm

gets off the ground

Local elections

this time you'll need photo id

Village history books

ex-library copies available

Coronation celebration lunch

Planning & property

What's on

Hamstead's first grape harvest



Autumn 2023 should see the first harvest of grapes from Hamstead's own vineyard, which lies just west of the footpath from Holtwood Road (leading to the Kintbury road beside Mayhouse Gully). Some 13,000 vines of five varieties were planted when this plot was first acquired by All Angels Vineyard of Enborne in 2022.

The Holtwood grapes, from vines imported from France and Germany, will be sent to a winemaker to produce a single vintage of sparkling English wine, to be distributed through more than a dozen local restaurants and wine merchants.

As part of Holtwood Vineyard, the fields to the south have been planted with 240 apple trees and a wildflower meadow with ponds.

[All Angels Vineyard](#) was established by Mark Darley at Church Farm in Enborne, where the first vines were planted in 2011. More followed in 2015. The addition of Holtwood Vineyard has brought the All Angels plantation to a total of six hectares.

All Angels Enborne includes a function room in which tours, tastings and club suppers are held (the latter in conjunction with the Damson Restaurant, due to open this Easter in the former Winterbourne Arms). Holtwood Vineyard already has a barn, in which Mark Darley hopes to hold similar events in the future.

He offers to anyone interested the opportunity to experience vineyard operation as a day-volunteer helping with seasonal tasks. For more information on this contact info@allangels.com.





Bus shelter refurb planned

The bus shelter at Ash Tree Corner is to get to get a makeover in the near future, with Chris Moss and Paul Hansen planning to tidy up and secure the frame, renew some of the rear fence posts, clear some overgrown vegetation and replace the seating with something more comfortable. The noticeboards are also due for renewal.

The shelter was last upgraded in 2009, when the current noticeboards were installed to provide a village information point. Thought is now being given to installing more facilities, such as a defibrillator, a "free little library" (as has been done with a former red telephone box in Ball Hill), a plant swap tray and the display of some village history information.

If you have any opinions on these ideas, or any other suggestions, please pass them on to [Anne Budd](#), [Chris Moss](#) or [Penny Stokes](#).



WestBerkshire COUNCIL

Services ▾

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Let's scrap fly tipping

Cracking down on littering and fly tipping in West Berkshire

Posted by: Communications team
on 23 February 2023

We are implementing a number of measures aimed at protecting the beauty of the natural environment within the district, and minimising incidents of littering and fly-tipping.

Keeping Streetcare busy

True to WBC's crackdown on fly tipping announced within the last week (see above), Streetcare dealt fairly promptly with the debris dumped at the top of the hill above Whitehill Farm recently.

Within a day or so however a rogue driver managed to mount the verge entering the village just past the Craven Arms, destroying the village sign, the white "gate", the speed limit warning and a bollard. Streetcare has been informed.

If you find garbage dumped at the roadside, email the details (including a photo and a what3words reference if possible) to streetcare@westberks.gov.uk, copying the [parish clerk](#).

Good Hope Farm gets up and running



They have had to contend with inclement weather, difficult ground, foraging deer and rabbits, and three burglaries but Karine, her son Alex and the farm team of staff and volunteers have despatched one problem after another, and are looking forward to a busy summer at Good Hope Farm on Park Lane.

Some two acres of former Elm Farm pasture are being planted with flowers, fruit and vegetables, alongside the newly established orchard of apple, pear and plum trees. The deer and rabbits have been excluded with better fencing, and security has been beefed up to deter human raiders. All equipment is now safely stowed in a container, and a security firm has been hired to keep an eye on the site, which is manned on a mostly daily basis.

Good Hope Farm is now registered with WBC as a service provider for adults with learning difficulties, and is beginning to get referrals from local colleges and special schools. With a walk-in polytunnel financed through the Good Exchange (Greenham Trust), a wooden office building and two accessible compostable toilets, Good Hope Farm is already hosting some of the clientele for which it was conceived. The emphasis, says Karine, is on offering practical work experience which optimises individual talents and capabilities. Clients benefit from working in the fresh air of the countryside, and they can obtain a sense of genuine achievement working productively with nature.

Local businesses have found Good Hope Farm to be a good project for their charitable initiatives, offering staff volunteer teams. The polytunnel's sturdy wooden workbenches, one specifically designed for wheelchair users, were built by one such team. Other volunteers are going to build a fruit cage.

Karine is also grateful for any donations of garden tools, barrows and watering cans.

Planning permission has recently been obtained for improving the entrance driveway and creating a car park area, but this may have to wait for further funding.

Meanwhile, Good Hope Farm is **opening to the public from 10am to 3pm on Thursday 16th March**. Visitors are asked to come on the hour in order to join guided tours, and bookings can be made via info@goodhopefarm.org.uk. Parking, refreshments and accessible toilets will be available.

WBC elections

Thursday 4th May is election day for the Hungerford and Kintbury ward of West Berkshire Council. Hamstead's polling station is the village hall, which will be open from 7am until 10pm.

Changes since 2019, when Hamstead last went to the polls, mean **voters must now bring photo id to the polling station**. These are the acceptable options:

- passport
- driving licence (including provisional)
- blue badge
- certain concessionary travel cards
- identity card with pass mark (proof of age standards scheme)
- biometric immigration document
- defence identity card
- certain national identity cards

Candidates have yet to be formally declared because nominations are still open and will remain so until 4th April.

Those not on the current electoral register can register online [here](#).

Postal vote application forms can be obtained [here](#).

Proxy vote forms can be downloaded from [here](#).

The deadline for postal and proxy vote applications is Tuesday 18th April.

At the time of going to press WBC's website had almost no information on this year's electoral process, and this will probably continue until official notice of the election is published on 27th March. Anyone with questions in the meantime may find answers on the [parish council website](#), or should ring the WBC electoral services department.

Hamstead Marshall's parish council is also due for (re)-election but, given that there has never been a surplus of villagers willing to serve, it would be a first if an election were to take place. The council is currently short of one member.

Park stile improved

Following the January meeting of concerned villagers with Rollo Gwyn-Jones, Hamstead Park's owner, the new stile on the footpath into the park has been modified with non-slip treads and hand rails to allow easier access. The dog hatch has been heightened to allow larger dogs to pass through.

Last year the stile replaced a kissing gate. Following complaints from a number of less able villagers who could no longer use the footpath, which is a public right of way, a campaign was launched by David Harris to restore the gate.

Rollo Gwyn-Jones was reluctant to restore the gate, which he said risked the escape of livestock.



Monday 20th March 19.30
Parish council meeting
in the village hall

Doors open 19.15 for parishioners to meet councillors. Tea & coffee.

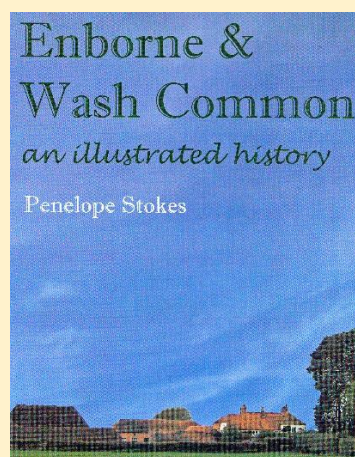
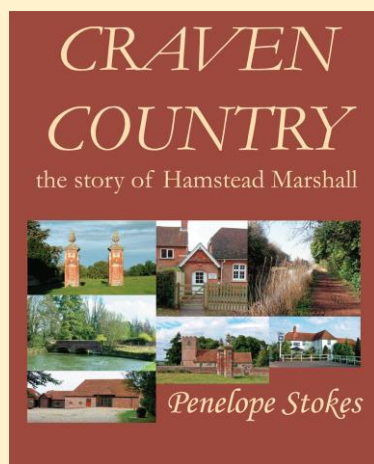
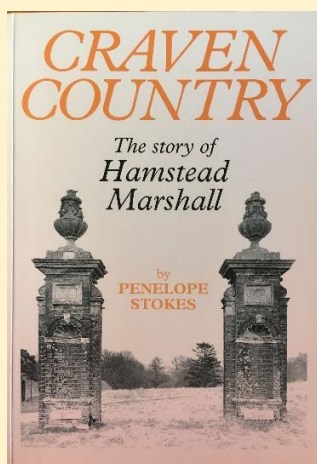
All parishioners welcome.

Meeting includes a talk by WBC's CEO Nigel Lynn.

Agenda will be posted on the PC site a few days before.

**Community market
in the village hall**
second Saturday of each month
10.00 – 13.00

*Locally prepared food and refreshments
Come and meet your neighbours
Stalls available: for details contact
Lanie Allen.*



**One
ex-
library
copy of
each
available**

The Newbury branch of Berkshire Family History Society is selling up its library, making one copy of each of these sought-after but out-of-print local history titles available at £10 each. They rarely appear on second-hand book sites. [Contact Penny Stokes](#) if you are interested in buying one.

Good Hope Farm
Park Lane, Hamstead Marshall

Open Day
10.00-15.00*
Thursday 16th March 2023

**Please come on the hour to
coincide with the start of tours
bookable via
info@goodhopefarm.org.uk*

Come and see what Karine and her team are achieving in setting up this day centre for adults with learning disabilities, organised around a small organic farm.

**Enborne and Hamstead Marshall
GARDEN SOCIETY
SPRING MEETING
in the village hall**

19.30 Wed 5th April

Jonathan Allchorne
of
Tudor Thatch Honey
will be talking and bringing
honey-themed gifts to buy

Members may collect their
2023 membership cards

Non-members welcome

Hamstead Marshall
Coronation Celebration Lunch

Bank holiday Monday 8th May 2023, 12.30

to be held at the White Hart if available, village hall if not

Adults £12pp includes celebration drink

Under-12s £6 with soft drinks

Any profits will go to Macmillan Cancer Support

Patriotic dress would be appreciated

Enquiries to trishtandy@icloud.com

Planning applications

Details taken from the [WBC planning portal](#) on 27th February 2023.
To see more details visit this site and search on the application number.

APPROVED

Good Hope Farm (Lot 5 Elm Farm) RG20 0HR

22/01789/COMIND validated 2nd Aug 2022. Construction of a new farm access track, parking area and the installation of temporary structures in association with the provision of a daily care farm facility.

Approved 2nd Dec 2022.

1 The Village RG20 0HN

22/03024/CERTP validated 19th Dec 2022.

Proposed gravel car hardstanding.

Approved 19th Jan 2023.

East Gate House Craven Hill RG20 0JD

22/02789/HOUSE validated 10th November 2022.

Glazed infill to existing floor.

Approved 17th Jan 2023.

ENFORCEMENT NOTICE WITHDRAWN

Oak Tree Barn Land adjacent to Holtwood Farm RG20 0JH

22/00055/WR

22/00053/INQ

Decided 5th Jan 2023.

Village property on the market

No 3 Hamstead Mill: guide price £450,000, with Marc Allen.
Ground floor with two bedrooms; basement.
Last sold 2012 for £240,000 (Nethouseprices)

New build on former Sovereign garages site: offered to let at £2,500pcm. Detached with four bedrooms and three bathrooms. The site was sold in April 2021 for £169,000.

What's on in the village

March

- Thu 2nd** 19.00 **Circle of Friends** at the village hall
Women's group meeting monthly: crochet baskets using leftover wool.
- Sat 11th** 10.00-13.00: **Community market** in the village hall
Sue's cakes and savouries, bread from Hetherton's, Lanie's preserves, refreshments and more. Stalls available: for details contact [Lanie Allen](#).
- Thu 16th** 10.00-15.00 **Open Day at Good Hope Farm**
*Arrivals please on the hour to coincide with tour times.
Bookable on info@goodhopefarm.porg.uk*
- Mon 20th** 19.30: **Parish council meeting** in the village hall (**NB date and time**)
Doors open 19.15 for meet & greet with councillors. Tea & coffee. All parishioners welcome. Meeting includes a talk by WBC's CEO Nigel Lynn. Agenda posted on [PC site](#) a few days before.
- 21st-24th** Village hall closed for work.

April

- Wed 5th** 19.30: **Garden Society** meeting in the village hall
Jonathan Allchorne of Tudor Thatch Honey. 2023 membership cards available. Non-members welcome. Details from [Penelope Lake](#).
- Thu 6th** 19.00: **Circle of Friends** at the village hall
Women's group meeting: Sugarcraft Easter baskets. £5 includes refreshments.
- Sat 8th** 10.00-13.00: **Community market** in the village hall
Sue's cakes and savouries, bread from Hetherton's, Lanie's preserves, refreshments and more. Stalls available: for details contact [Lanie Allen](#).

May

- Thu 4th** 07.00-22.00 **WBC elections** in the village hall
Voters must bring photo id.

(Circle of Friends meeting to be rescheduled.)

- Mon 8th** 12.30 **Coronation celebration lunch** in the White Hart (venue tbc)
£12/£6 pp. Details from trishtandy@icloud.com.
- Sat 13th** 10.00-13.00: **Community market** in the village hall
Sue's cakes and savouries, bread from Hetherton's, Lanie's preserves, refreshments and more. Stalls available: for details contact [Lanie Allen](#).
- Thu 18th** 20.00: **Parish assembly and council meeting** in the village hall
All parishioners welcome. Agenda posted on [PC site](#) a few days before.

June

- Thu 2nd** 19.00: **Circle of Friends** at the village hall
Women's group meeting monthly for chat, tea and a talk. £5 to include refreshments.
- Sat 10th** 10.00-13.00: **Community market** in the village hall
Sue's cakes and savouries, bread from Hetherton's, Lanie's preserves, refreshments and more. Stalls available: for details contact [Lanie Allen](#).

Pilates in the village hall continues on Tuesday mornings, 09.30 to 10.30.
To enquire or join, contact [Jenny Carter](#).

Ladies who Brunch For details contact [Lanie Allen](#).

Circle of Friends contact is [Sue Watts](#).